

Message Text

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TO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

INFO CINCPAC

OJGA/COGARD

,GOVGUAM

TREASURY

CO CLARK AFB PH

UNCLAS STATE 058424

CLARK AFB ATTN PIO FOR MORTON SMITH

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT: MARCH 16 EA PRESS SUMMARY

1. INDOCHINA

WOODCOCK, HEADING MIA MISSION, SAYS FEW NEGOTS HE'S BEEN IN WITH AS LITTLE LEVERAGE ON OUR SIDE. ADDS UNLESS VIETS BREAK OUT OF "STERILE NEGOTIATING MOLD" OF PAST, MISSION WILL FAIL (AP, SUN; WP). WOODCOCK STATES US HAD ADVISED HANOI OF SERIOUSNESS OF INTENTIONS THRU 3RD PARTIES AS USSR. NOTES US DOESN'T WANT HEAR CONTINUING TALK BY VN ABOUT LINKAGE OF ISSUES; IF GET MIRED DOWN IN THAT "WE KNOW WE HAVE FAILED" (AP, SUN). WOODCOCK MISSION ARRIVES UNCLASSIFIED

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HANOI, GETS QUIET/POLITE WELCOME (AP HANOI).

REP MONTGOMERY, W/WOODCOCK MISSION, SAYS FUTILE ASK HANOI FOR HELP MOST WANTED BY US MIL OFFICIALS TRYING FIND MIAS: ALLOWING US EXPERTS ASSIST IN SEARCH; ADDS SENDING IN US ADVISORY TEAMS "OUT OF THE QUESTION" SINCE VN WOULDN'T AGREE TO THIS "AND I CAN UNDERSTAND WHY." PRESENCE DOS OFFICIALS W/MISSION UNDERLINES THAT JOURNEY WAS POSSIBLE STEP TOWARD OPENING NORMAL DIPL RELS (UPI CLARK AB).

STATHOS (NYDN) REPORTS COALITION US PEACE GROUPS WILL PRESENT VN W/FUNDS TO BUILD HOSPITAL ON SITE MY LAI MASSACRE. SOME MIA KIN ANGRY/BITTER OVER PLAN.

VN INAUGURATES AIR LINK LINKING HCM CITY/DANANG/BANMETHUOT (REUTER HK).

2. HONG KONG

LAT'S LESLIE IN HK DISCUSSES COLONY'S HANDLING OF TEXTILE QUOTA SYSTEM FOR GOODS DESTINED FOR US MARKET, ADVANTAGES TO US OF CHANGE TO IMPORTER-BASED SYSTEM/ADVANTAGES TO HK OF RETAINING PRESENT SYSTEM (3/13).

3. CHINA

FROM HK, WP'S MATHEWS (3/15) WRITES THAT PRC STILL FITFULLY ROOTING OUT OPPOSITION AT VARIOUS LEVELS. PREFERS USE PERSUASION RATHER THAN POLICE/BRUTE FORCE. ALTHOUGH REPORTS OF PURGE PROGRESS SOMEWHAT VAGUE, PEKING GIVING PEOPLE EXPLICIT MESSAGE THAT EXPECTED TO GET BACK TO WORK.

YUNNAN LEADERS HAVE WARNED RESIDENTS TO PREPARE FOR DROUGHT (REUTER, WP).

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4. KOREA

PRES PARK TOLD JOINT CABINET/GOVT MEETING 3/15 THAT PRES CARTER'S PLAN W/DRAW US GROUND TROOPS FITS IN WITH SK'S GOAL OF SELF-RELIANCE IN DEFENSE BY 1981 (REUTER SEOUL; WP; PHINQ).

SK TV INDUSTRY, INCREASING CAPACITY IN ANTICIPATION AMERICAN MARKETS, ALARMED OVER US MOVES PUT HIGH TARIFFS ON FOREIGN-MADE TVS. LEADING ELECTRONICS COMPANY OFFICIAL SAYS MATERIALIZATION US MOVE WOULD BE SERIOUS BLOW TO KOREAN TV INDUSTRY (UPI, JOC).

MCGOWEN(NYT)/O'DAY (NYDN) REPORT MUHAMMAD ALI ONCE AGAIN PLANS TO COME OUT OF RETIREMENT, THIS TIME TO FIGHT UNRANKED ITALIAN LORENZO ZANON IN SEOUL 5/10. HOWEVER, ALI HAS PRIOR MADISON GARDEN COMMITMENT AND GARDEN MAY SUE IF ALI FIGHTS IN SEOUL. O'DAY NOTES FIGHT BEING SPONSORED BY KOREAN PAPERS. MCGOWEN CITES PROMOTER PAUL CORVINO AS SAYING SEOUL CHOSEN BECAUSE SK ONE OF OUR STRONGEST/MOST DEPENDABLE ALLIES IN FE.

5. JAPAN

JAPAN WILL PROPOSE GOVT-LEVEL TALKS WITH US TO SETTLE ISSUE OF ITS COLOR TV EXPORTS, ITI MIN TANAKA TOLD NEWS CONFERENCE TUES. SAID US ITC'S RECOMMENDATIONS TO INCREASE COLOR TV IMPORT DUTIES FOR 5 YRS WERE "TOUGHER THAN EXPECTED," BUT HOPED MATTER WILL BE SETTLED THROUGH INTER-GOVT NEGOTIATIONS IN 60-DAY PERIOD BEFORE PRES CARTER MUST MAKE DECISION (NYT'S OFUSA, TOKYO; RUETER TOKYO 3/15).

PRES OF JAPAN IRON/STEEL FEDERATION SAID TUES THAT JAPAN SHOULD IMPOSE VOLUNTARY CONTROLS ON ITS STEEL EXPORTS BEFORE US TAKES ANY RESTRICTIVE STEP AGAINST JAPANESE STEEL PRODUCTS. YOSHIHIRO TOLD NEWS CONFERENCE THAT JAPAN UNCLASSIFIED

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WOULD FACE GREAT DISADVANTAGE IN CASE OF SUCH US ACTION (REUTER TOKYO 3/15).

US STEEL CORP SIGNS AGREEMENT W/US AFFILIATE OF TOSHIN STEEL CO TO BUY/INSTALL PART OF TOSHIN'S ELECTRIC STEEL-MAKING PROCESS IN 2 CHICAGO ELECTRIC FURNACES (WSJ).

SUN'S SEIDEN (TOKYO) REPORTS JUSTICE MINISTRY STATEMENT TUES THAT LOCKHEED'S SECRET AGENT KODAMA MAY HAVE DOUBLE-CROSSED US FIRM BY FAILING PAY OFF JAPANESE POLITICIANS/POCKETING MILLIONS IN INTENDED BRIBES.

6. PHILIPPINES

MARCOS CANCELED THURS PLEBISCITE IN MOSLEM REGION AFTER REBELS THREATENED RESUME WAR IF HELD. REBELS CLAIM PLEBISCITE IS WAY FOR GOVT RENEGE ON PROMISE ALL 13 S PROVINCES PART OF AUTONOMOUS REGION. WP'S WIDEMAN SAYS MARCOS TRYING SALVAGE NEGOTIATIONS. MRS. MARCOS IN TRIPOLI TRYING GET QADDAFI PERSUADE REBELS ACCEPT EVENTUAL PLEBISCITE (WP).

7. AUSTRALIA

FOR SECOND MONTH IN ROW, IMPORTS HAVE RECORD RISE. INCREASE CAUSE FOR CONCERN PARTICULARLY IN WAKE OF NOV DEVALUATION (JOC).

FROM SYDNEY, JOC'S STONE REPORTS EC DELEGATION IN AUSTRALIA FOR TALKS ON COUNTRY'S MINERAL RESOURCES. INCREASED EC INTEREST DUE FACT EUROPEAN-BASED RESOURCES BEING EXHAUSTED/EC-AUSTRALIA TRADE BALANCE IN EC'S FAVOR/EC HOPES HAVE UNHINDERED ACCESS TO AUSTRALIA'S MINERAL RESOURCES.

8. THAILAND

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ABOUT 600 US SAILORS/MARINES FROM SHIP LAND PATTIYA FOR SHORE LEAVE; 1ST TIME US FORCES VISIBLE IN NUMBERS SINCE LAST JUL 20. SERVICEMEN/GIRLS/POLICE ALL ENJOYED OCCASION THAT WOULD HAVE INVITED LEFT-WING DEMONSTRATION/POSSIBLY RIOTS YR AGO (UPI, BALTO NA 3/15).

9. SINGAPORE

MINK (LAT 3/13) DOES TRAVEL PIECE. FINDS BOOMING BUSINESS/ TOURIST CENTER W/FACE CHANGING AS SECTIONS CHINATOWN BEING REPLACED W/GOVT-BUILT HOUSING/SHOPPING ARCADES. NOTES CITY HAS ALL COMFORTS OF HOME; RECOMMENDS WK STAY FOR SHOPPERS.

10. GENERAL

REPS PLO/NK/VN INVITED TO UN DIPL RECEPTION IN HONOR PRES CARTER (AP, NYDN).

HOLUSHA (WSTAR 3/15) REPORTS ITC VOTE TO REIMPOSE IMPORT QUOTAS FOR SUGAR; EITHER 4.4 MILLION TONS/YR OR 4.27 MILLION TONS RECOMMENDED IF PRES DECIDES ON QUOTAS. WH HAS 60 DAYS TO ACCEPT/MODIFY/REJECT RECOMMENDATION. HOLUSHA ADDS SHOE/TV IMPORT RECOMMENDATIONS BY ITC NOW BEFORE PRES; SAYS SHIFT TOWARD PROTECTIONISM HAS POWERFUL BACKING FROM INDUSTRY/LABOR/MANY CONGRESSMEN.

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

11. JAPAN

SUN HOPES ADMIN WILL NOT GO ALONG WITH ITC CALL FOR TRADE RESTRICTIONS. NOTES JAPAN, "MOST AGGRESSIVE OF EXPORT NATIONS," IS ONE OF MOST IMPENETRABLE OF IMPORT NATIONS. SEES UPCOMING US VISITS BY FUKUDA AND OTHERS GIVING CARTER OPPORTUNITY EXPERT POSITIVE US LEVERAGE AGAINST FOREIGN UNCLASSIFIED

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PROTECTIONISM.

IN TOKYO, LAT'S JAMESON (3/14) OBSERVES THAT JAPAN, AFTER PILING UP 4-BILLION-DOL TRADE SURPLUS LAST YR WITH ECC, IS NOW TURNING OTHER CHEEK, HAS SENT TEAMS TO FRANCE/ ENGLAND THIS MO TO LOOK FOR GOODS JAPANESE CAN BUY, IN EFFORT CHANGE WHAT HAS BEEN LARGELY ONE-WAY TRAFFIC IN TRADE. CITES ITI VICE MINISTER MASUDA'S RECENT COMMENTS BEFORE AUDIENCE OF JAPANESE NEWSMEN/ONE FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT AT JAPAN NATIONAL PRESS CLUB AS PROVIDING RARE GLIMPSE OF "USUALLY HIDDEN RESENTMENT OF PREJUDICED, OR AT BEST, UNINFORMED VIEWS" OF JAPANESE TRADE PRACTICES.

12. WOODCOCK MISSION

DIAMOND (WTOP-TV EYEWITNESS NEWS 3/15) HOPES MISSION WILL END MIA STORY, LAST CHAPTER IN HISTORY VN WAR. OPINES VILLAINS IN CASE ARE NIXON/HAK/DOS/PRESS THAT ALLOWED "CRUEL DECEPTION" GO ON FOR SO LONG. SAYS FACTS ARE: WARS PRODUCE MIAS, W/VN WAR PRODUCING LESS THAN USUAL NUMBER; AIR/JUNGLE WARFARE MAKE DIFFICULT IDENTIFY DEAD POSITIVELY; AT LEAST SOME MIAS DIED IN REAR AREAS, SO TO IMPLY "FIENDISH VIETNAMESE WERE HIDING THEM FOR SOME BARGAINING PURPOSES IS A CRUEL, CRUEL HOAX." FEARS MESSAGE MISSION WILL BRING BACK TO MIA FAMILIES IS THAT LOVED ONE DEAD, "WAS USED AS PART OF SOME PLAN TO BOLSTER SUPPORT FOR AN UNPOPULAR WAR." OPINES GOVT/PRESS COULD HAVE TOLD US THAT YRS AGO.

13. THAILAND

SCHMIDT (CSM) WONDERES IF RT-WING RTG TOYING W/POSSIBILITY ASKING US RESUME ACTIVE MIL ROLE? SAYS QUESTION ARISES FROM REQUEST BY THAIS TO RESUME US MIL AIR CARGO FLIGHTS TO THAILAND. SEA DIPLOMATS THINK MAY BE 1ST MOVE TO CREATE STRONGER US-THAI RELATIONSHIP, SINCE RTG MAY BE UNCLASSIFIED

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FEELING UNEASY ABOUT GROWING INSURGENCY. REVIEWS INSURGENCIES IN S/NE. MENTIONS INSURGENTS GET ARMS FROM CHINA/VN. SAYS PRC ANXIOUS TO PREVENT VN FROM GAINING TOO MUCH INFLUENCE IN SEA, SO SUPPLIES THAI INSURGENTS/SUPPORTS CAMBODIAN REGIME.

14. HUMAN RIGHTS

BARNET (LAT 3/13) BELIEVES ADMIN RUNS RISK DIVIDING WORLD INTO 2 CATEGORIES: COUNTRIES UNIMPORTANT ENOUGH TO BE HECTORED ABOUT HUMAN RTS; NATIONS IMPORTANT ENOUGH TO GET AWAY W/MURDER. SAYS PRES WORRIED ABOUT RTS IN CHILE/ ARGENTINA, BUT NOT IN BRAZIL/SK/PHILS. SEES DISTINCTION RELATED TO FACT THAT FEWER US STRATEGIC/COMML INTERESTS IN 1ST GROUP THAN IN 2ND. NOTES USSR/EUR IS SPECIAL CASE. BELIEVES US NEEDS MODEST/UNIFORM STAND ON RTS SAYS CAN DO MORE FOR RTS BY REEXAMINING SOME INTL ECON/DEVELOPMENT POLICIES, WORKING FOR MORE JUST INTL ORDER. ADVOCATES END DIRECT SUPPORT MIL REGIMES HEAVILY DEPENDENT ON US, SUCH AS BRAZIL/IRAN. CONCLUDES UNLESS US ADOPTS MODEST/UNIVERSAL STD TO BE APPLIED TO LEFTIST/RIGHTIST REGIMES ALIKE, HUMAN RTS QUESTION WILL DEGENERATE INTO CRUEL/DANGEROUS PROPAGANDA WAR.

SATCHELL (WSTAR 3/15) OBSERVES SUDDENLY IT'S "CHIC" TO BE HUMAN RTS ACTIVIST. REVIEWS WORK INVOLVED GROUPS. SAYS

ADMIN HAS "WINNING ISSUE."
PHINQ NOTES PRES ALSO EAGERLY ASSESSING US POLICIES RE
RTS. NOTES END TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS TO VN/NK/CUBA/CAMBO-
DIA. ADDS WILL TAKE ACT CONGRESS TO CORRECT "VIOLATION"
ON FON TRAVEL IN MCCARRAN ACT. POINTS OUT RECENTLY
AUSSIE COMMUNIST LABOR OFFICIAL DENIED ENTRY TO SPEAK ON
ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS. ADVISES MCCARRAN ACT OUGHT TO BE
"PUT OUT OF OUR MISERY."

15. GENERAL
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RESTON (NYT) NOTES JOKES ABOUT ADMIN'S "OPEN MOUTH POLICY,"
BUT OPINES MOST DIPL MEETINGS SO FAR ACHIEVED MOST OF
PRES' OBJECTIVES. NOTES JAPANESE PM WILL ARRIVE IN NEXT
FEW WKS. SEES INCREASING EVIDENCE PRES MEANS WHAT SAYS,
EVEN WHEN SAYS WHAT WASHINGTON THINKS "WRONG AND UN-
CONVENTIONAL THING."
VANCE

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